



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Scottsdale Community College
Student Center, Peridot Room
9000 E. Chaparral Road,
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

7:30 a.m. Continental Networking Breakfast
8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m, Program

1. Welcome & Announcements. Coalition Overview

BRENT STOCKWELL GAVE AN OVERVIEW ON THE COALITION'S PROGRESS TO DATE AND WELCOMED THE 40 MEETING PARTICIPANTS, WHO ALSO INTRODUCED THEMSELVES.

- a. Agree to new Steering Committee Members (Marla Abramowitz, Scottsdale Unified School District; Katie Decker, Town of Fountain Hills; Dr. Don Fowls, Paradise Valley resident; Craig Thomas, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community).

THE GROUP AGREED BY CONSENSUS TO THE 4 NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

- b. Review upcoming events (calendar below)

BRENT OVERVIEWED THE UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR.

2. Speaker: Doug Coleman, Drug Enforcement Administration

BRENT INTRODUCED PHIL RICCIO, WHO INTRODUCED DOUG COLEMAN, THE DEA'S ASSISTANT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE FOR THE PHOENIX AREA.

HE SAID THAT METH IS THE BIGGEST AND BADDEST DRUG PROBLEM WE ARE CURRENTLY FACING. HE SUMMARIZED HOW WE GOT TO WHERE WE ARE AT WITH METH. 20 YEARS AGO – BIKER GANGS WERE USING A MANUFACTURING METHOD THAT DID NOT USE PSEUDOEPHEDRINE (PSE). AT THAT TIME IT WAS ONLY ON THE WEST COAST. THERE WAS A 24-48 HOUR CYCLE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF METH. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PLACED RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRECURSOR CHEMICALS FOR WHAT WAS KNOWN AS THE P2P METHOD WHICH CAUSED A SWITCH IN MANUFACTURING TO THE RED P (PHOSPHORUS METHOD) WHICH USED PSE. FROM ABOUT 5 – 15 YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A SWITCH TO THE MOBILE LAB MANUFACTURING METHOD WHICH TOOK ABOUT 6 HOURS TO MANUFACTURE. VERY LITTLE ELECTRICITY OR WATER WERE USED TO PRODUCE AND INGREDIENTS WERE AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL DISCOUNT STORE. THE LABS GOT SMALLER AND COULD BE MADE IN HOMES, MOTEL ROOMS AND CARS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REALIZED IF ACCESS WAS RESTRICTED TO PRECURSOR CHEMICALS THAN MANUFACTURE

COULD BE IMPACTED – RESTRICTIONS WERE HARDER TO DO SINCE PSE WAS MUCH MORE PREVALENT THAN THE P2P CHEMICALS. HOWEVER, RESTRICTIONS HAD A DRAMATIC EFFECT ON LABS IN THE US. THERE WERE ABOUT 300 LABS A FEW YEARS AGO, ONLY 15 IN 2005 IN AZ. IN 2005, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PASSED THE COMBAT METH ACT. AGENT COLEMAN HELPED WRITE IT.

LATELY, THERE HAS BEEN A SWITCH TO HUGE CLANDESTINE LABS IN MEXICO AND DRUGS ARE SMUGGLED ACROSS THE BORDER. THERE ARE A NEW SET OF DRUG SUPPLIERS WHICH ARE A LOOSE FEDERATION OF 5-6 METH TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THREE CARTELS WHICH INCLUDES THE MEXICAN FEDERATION THAT CONTROLS ALL SIGNIFICANT TRAFFICKING OCCURRING IN ARIZONA. THEY CONTROL 99.9% OF MARIJUANA AND HEROIN FROM THEIR OWN SUPPLY AND ALSO TRANSPORT COCAINE. THEY SAW THE U.S. HAD A METH ADDICTION PROBLEM AND REALIZED THEY COULD CONTROL THE WHOLE PROCESS – MANUFACTURE THEMSELVES, USE EXISTING TRANSPORTATION ROUTES, AND NOT HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE COLUMBIANS AND COCAINE. THEY CONTROL ALL TRAFFICKING ACROSS THE BOARD. THEY USE VARIOUS METHODS OF CONCEALMENT INCLUDING BODY CARRIERS AND SOME 18 WHEELERS.

PHOENIX IS WHERE THERE IS A TRANSPORTATION SHIPMENT PROBLEM. DRUGS COME ACROSS THE BORDER, COME STRAIGHT UP TO THE PHOENIX AREA TO A STASH HOUSE. HOUSES ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY. THE SHIPMENT SITS FOR 3-5 DAYS, MAY BE REPACKAGED AND THEN IS LOADED UP AND SHIPPED OUT. PHOENIX IS THE MAJOR SHIPMENT/DISTRIBUTION POINT AND FEEDS CHICAGO, NEW YORK, DETROIT AND ALSO THE WEST COAST AND LAS VEGAS – THESE ARE ALL FROM THE MEXICAN FEDERATION.

CURRENT TRENDS – BASED ON TIPS FROM PHONE CALLS, WE ARE SEEING A BIT OF A DECREASE IN THE AVAILABILITY OF METH IN THE VALLEY. THE COST IS GOING UP AND THE PURITY IS GOING DOWN. THE DEA SEIZED 100 POUNDS IN ONE DEAL A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO. THE DEA IS CONSTANTLY WORKING WITH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM – THE NEW MEXICAN PRESIDENT IS TAKING THE PROBLEM SERIOUSLY SO FAR AND IS HAVING SOME EFFECT BASED ON MILITARY ACTIONS.

THERE IS A 370 MILE BORDER IN ARIZONA WITH SEVERAL POINTS OF ENTRY. THE DEA TARGETS THEIR ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AGAINST THE BIGGEST AND BADDEST. THERE ARE FIVE MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS WITH 100S OF WARRANTS AGAINST THEM. RECENTLY, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ROUNDED UP AND EXTRADITED 13 OF THE HIGHEST RANKED INDIVIDUALS – HOWEVER MEXICO HAS ONLY BEEN DEALING WITH METH ENFORCEMENT FOR ABOUT 3-4 YEARS AND SO THEY ARE STILL BEHIND THE CURVE. THEY ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON PASSING LEGISLATION RELATING TO PSE RESTRICTIONS.

IF WE CONTINUE TO SEE AN INCREASE IN COST AND DECREASE IN AVAILABILITY, WE MAY SEE BIKER LABS BEING SET UP AGAIN (P2P METHOD) HOWEVER THE RED P LABS WILL BE HARD TO SET UP DUE TO RESTRICTIONS. THERE ARE HOWEVER ABOUT 100 WAYS TO MAKE METH.

DISTRIBUTION OF METH WITHIN THE U.S. IS LIKE A FORTUNE 500 COMPANY. THERE ARE CEO'S ALL THE WAY DOWN TO WORKER BEES. THEY OPERATE LIKE CELLS – THERE ARE TRANSPORT CELLS THAT TAKE TO DISTRIBUTION CELLS – IT ALL TIES BACK TO THE FEDERATION. ALL THE MONEY COMES BACK THROUGH PHOENIX. THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN SMUGGLING ACROSS THE BORDER AND DRUG SMUGGLING.

REGARDING LOCAL DRUG PROBLEMS, ALCOHOL AND MARIJUANA ARE THE HIGHEST, FOLLOWED BY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND METH. METH IS BAD BECAUSE OF DESTRUCTIVENESS AND ADDICTIVENESS. PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE IS EMERGING AS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM NOW.

50 GRAMS OF METH WILL GET YOU 10 YEARS IN JAIL AND YOU MUST DO 85% OF THE TIME. CONVICTION RATES ARE IN THE 90% RANGE.

THE DEA IS WORKING WITH TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ARE CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF COMMUNITIES. THEY ARE TRAINING TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND WORKING TOGETHER ON SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS.

IT'S HARD TO RECOGNIZE A METH LAD DUE TO THE SMALL MINI-LABS. WE ARE AT RISK FOR A RESURGANCE OF LOCALLY PRODUCED METH. OVER TIME DIFFERENT DRUGS SURGE TO THE TOP AND THE DEA DEALS WITH THEM.

THE INTERNET IS A GREAT TOOL FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS. KIDS CAN BUY OVER THE INTERNET. PARENTS SHOULD WATCH ONLINE EXPENSES AND SHOULD WATCH THE MAIL.

DRUG DOGS CAN'T GET PRESCRIPTION DRUGS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS.

THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO FIGHT ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOR. THERE NEEDS TO BE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN TREATMENT, PREVENTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT THAT THE U.S. HAS A 95% SUCCESS RATE AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS – LESS THAN 5% OF PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY USE ANY TYPE OF NARCOTICS.

STASH HOUSES ARE VACANT PROPERTIES ONLY USED DURING CERTAIN TIMES. YOU MAY SEE A CAR PARKING THERE FOR A FEW HOURS – HARD

TO SPOT. WATCH WHAT YOU SEE – GUT FEELINGS ARE OFTEN RIGHT. YOUR PIECE OF INFO COULD BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER. BUT DON'T GET MAD IF NOTHING SEEMS TO HAPPEN BASED ON YOUR TIP – THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH THE DEA IS ALLOWED TO DO BASED ON TIPS.

3. Updates on Subcommittee Activity

- a. **Crime Impacts – PHIL GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE IDENTIFY THEFT EVENTS.**
- b. **Resource Directory – VALERIE SHARED THAT THE RESOURCE DIRECTORY IS BEING FINALIZED.**
- c. **Youth Awareness – MARY ELLEN SHARED THAT THE YOUTH SUMMITS ARE BEING WORKED ON IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COX COMMUNICATIONS.**

THE MEETING CONCLUDED – THE NEXT COMMUNITY WORKSHOP WILL BE FEBRUARY 28. BRENT ENCOURAGED PARTICIPANTS TO JOIN THE COALITION'S EFFORTS AND GET ACTIVE ON A SUBCOMMITTEE.